

## War Agencies Are Rapidly Disappearing

Trade Board Still Active, But Its Daily Relaxing Its Hold on Business

Food Prices Still Fixed

Control of Coal Is Continued Until Dealers Now Stocked Up Are Relieved

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The restrictions imposed on trade and industry by the various sorts of war administration agencies are rapidly disappearing.

The War Industries Board and its wide range of price fixing are gone. The War Trade Board is still on the job, but it daily extends the freedom of the seas as controlled by it during the war. However, getting a permit to export or import, or not having to get one, and getting shipping space are two different things.

The Shipping Board has released very few of its requisitioned ships yet, and through the function of the Shipping Control Commission, which it is now taking over in its entirety, it still holds a curbing hand on export trade.

As British shipping is being released wholesale, American shipping masters and owners are finding this situation very hard to endure.

The food administration continues to regulate the foodstuffs market to a certain degree and the grip on retail prices is as strong as ever, but each week sees some articles released from control.

Price Set by Law  
The price of wheat for the 1919 crop has been established by law and proclamation and cannot be altered, which that at the beginning of the 1920 crop year. The government has virtually entered into a contract with the wheat growers, guaranteeing them \$2.40 a bushel on Chicago basis, and it is now up to Congress to provide the funds, should it be necessary for the government to buy all or part of the crop in order to make good the guarantee.

Nobody knows what the free market price of wheat would be today or will be next year. On it depends whether the government will be able to pocket a large or small sum or nothing at all in the task of making good its guarantee.

It was foreseen at the start of wheat prices that there was a possibility that it might cost the government as much as a billion dollars. The United States will undoubtedly have the largest wheat acreage in its history for the 1919 crop, but the international trade relations are in a considerable degree normalized within a year's time. The outcome will, of course, be largely determined by the price of wheat next year in this as well as in other wheat-producing countries.

Non-Intoxicating Beverages

The prohibition of the manufacture of malted and distilled liquors will, of course, continue, in accordance with the terms of the prohibition act. A determined effort is now being made, however, through the food administration, to secure a relaxation of the order as it relates to non-alcoholic cereal beverages. It is argued that there is no reason whatever why manufacturers should not be permitted to use the stocks of materials on hand, and little, if any, reason why they should not be permitted to produce their business without any restrictions. In some cities, notably St. Louis and Milwaukee, the removal of the restriction on cereal beverages that are non-intoxicating would give employment to many thousands of men.

The fuel administration still continues its grip on prices and still maintains its coal zones, but otherwise its regulation of the business of producing and distributing coal has about terminated. As the coal prices are maximum prices, however, they now have to be free on a large part of the coal trade, as the market is tending to establish lower prices.

Restraint on Coal Prices

In respect to anthracite coal and certain kinds of bituminous the maximum prices are still a restraint. The zones are being constantly changed and shifted, so much so that the restrictive effect has altogether disappeared in regard to some of the producing districts. Probably they will be entirely withdrawn by the end of the coal year, March 31. Their principal function now is to protect the dealers and the markets for coal that has been stored in accordance with zone regulations.

Illinois people, for instance, must burn Illinois coal under the zone system, though they would prefer to use other coals for many purposes. If they were permitted free access to the preferred coal the dealers who have stocked up with Illinois coal, in accordance with the requirements of the fuel administration, would suffer a grievous loss.

To a very considerable extent the coal men will be sorry to see the zone system go, because it has tended to restrict competition and has made a fairly fixed demand for the coal from each field and has thus reduced the hazards of the business very greatly. For similar reasons they will regret the passing of maximum prices.

There is a tendency for a maximum price to be the going price, and when it is gone there is much fear of a depressing demoralization of prices, especially as the laws against price agreements are to be enforced strictly hereafter.

In fact, the coal men are about as agreed that the government has been more successful in directing their business than they have ever been themselves, and they are hoping that Congress may be persuaded to make it legal for them to do hereafter for themselves some of the things they had to do during the war, but which would be illegal.

The reactions of business to government control have been and are conflicting. Business men generally are glad to get back their old freedom of action. They freely admit that there have been some advantages in leaning on Uncle Sam and having him behind them, and their taste for the old, free competition has been somewhat blunted by their experience of a period of abundant business at fixed prices or at prices that insured profits without having to commit commercial assault and battery on a competitor.

## New Fish Stop Invented

Enormous Saving Expected From Electrical Device

Thousands of dollars annually will be saved, it is expected, in the Pacific Northwest fisheries industry by a device invented by Henry T. Burkey, of Oklahoma. The invention is an electric fish stop.

Because there has been no efficient way to prevent fish following wrong streams, hatcheries have lost thousands of dollars every year. Nets across the mouths of rivers have proved costly and inefficient. Keeping fish away from intake and irrigation ditches is a difficult problem solved by the electric fish stop.

The invention, which establishes electric fields of graduated voltage across a stream, is said to be cheaper than any device so far conceived, as the power is furnished by the force of the current turning a turbine dynamo. A field of 25 volts is located furthest down stream and small fish coming in contact with the electric current are turned back into the main current of the river. Fields of increasing voltage act on fish of larger size. Fish are extremely sensitive to electric currents and water greatly increases the conductivity of the electric field.

When Burkey has completed arrangements with the Northwest fisheries he will go to Alaska at the invitation of the Alaska Game and Fish Commission to demonstrate his electric stop in the North. —Nyasak Evening Journal.

## Ballin Foresaw Germany Would Be Loser in the War

Even if Great Britain Were Defeated, He Predicted Hostility of Empire Would Ruin Foreign Commerce

SYDNEY, Australia, Nov. 23 (Correspondence of The Associated Press). —Albert Ballin, general director of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company, who is reported to have committed suicide just before the signing of the armistice, had predicted disaster for the German overseas trade as an outcome of the war. This is disclosed by the publication here of a letter which Herr Ballin had written in December, 1917, apparently to Dr. Rutenau, a privy councillor at Berlin. The letter was made public here by J. M. Paxton, a resident of Sydney, who received it from a friend in London. In it Ballin declared that whether Germany or England was victorious in the war, the consequences to German foreign trade would be disastrous. The letter reads, in part:

"Most of what we read in the newspapers as to our preparedness for enduring on brink and danger and manna-factures as soon as peace has been concluded is, I fear, written with the manifest intention of heartening our people, who are notoriously ignorant of our actual economic conditions and all that threatens them."

He said that the German mercantile marine was in "a perilous condition," and that the bill to reestablish and strengthen it, which at the time of writing was before the Reichstag, would show no results for at least five years. In that time Germany's great maritime empire, Britain, the United States and Japan, and the neutrals, Norway, Denmark and Holland, would profit enormously.

Ballin reminded his friend that he had frequently begged Berlin authorities not to engage in unrestricted submarine warfare; and he continued:

"You and I know that the Americans are probably the most idealistic nation on earth. It is argued that unrestricted America we have done a disastrous thing, a thing which will throw a cold shadow on our economic life for a generation." The latter part of Ballin's letter ran:

"But if I am concerned about our relations with the United States, I am still more anxious about our relations with Britain. I realize as never before that all the increase in our wealth, all the success which attended our enterprises in the years before the war, were owing to our intercourse with the British Empire. Her home ports, her colonies, her dominions, were freely opened to our shippers and traders. Sometimes I wondered at this generosity and even called it folly. Is it to be imagined for a moment that this world in favor of Britain's policy in this war, believe that she entered it from some base motives."

"Consider what we are risking. We look forward to resuming our sea trade. We build our proudest expectations on this. How are we to resume it in face of an Anglo-American coalition, which would make both our presence among them?"

"But we must beat England, you say, no matter what the consequence. I agree. All I say is that if we beat her or she beats us the consequence will be the same—disaster to our overseas trade if Britain so wills it. We may, in the event of victory, impose all sorts of conditions securing us most-favored-nation treatment, securing us free entry into British ports everywhere. No sane man believes that the conditions will help us."

"With a hostile British empire, galled and fretted with our military success, raging at its losses, hopelessly alienated, how are we to procure the raw material which this empire alone can supply? That great empire is self-contained and we are not, and all the military victories and all the will of the wisps about 'Hamburg to Baghdad' will not help us."

Herr Ballin died suddenly in Berlin on November 9. The cause of his death has not been officially stated, but it has been reported that he had been summoned to the German Army Headquarters and criticized by General Ludendorff for opposing plans of the military, and that Ballin then appealed to the then German Emperor, who sustained Ludendorff's statements, and suggested that Ballin either adopt them or retire from public life. The report, according to reports, Ballin appeared to be greatly depressed in spirit. Some reports received in London stated that he had committed suicide.

## Diseases Spread by Wars

In the nineteenth century, during the Russo-Turkish wars, typhus spread from Turkey up through Wallachia into Austria. The French suffered from it during the Crimean conflict. In the Franco-Prussian war, the French, being poorly clothed and fed, again suffered. The Balkan War seems to have been notable more for cholera, a summer disease, than typhus, which flourishes best in winter. Rocky Mountain Herald.

## Radicals Beat Election Plan Of Liebknecht

Spartacus Leader's Plea for Participation in National Assembly Is Rejected

Free Democracy Sought

Christian People's Party Demands Overthrow of the Berlin Socialist Republic

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 2.—Dr. Karl Liebknecht suffered a sharp defeat in the Spartacus Congress at Berlin on Tuesday according to advices received here.

Dr. Liebknecht advocated participation by the Spartacus element in the election of members of the national assembly, on the ground that the party might be able to influence the composition of the assembly. Rosa Luxemburg, one of the Spartacus leaders, replied in a violent speech, declaring, amid thunderous applause, that "the meeting of the national assembly must be prevented at all costs." Dr. Liebknecht's proposal was rejected by a vote of 63 to 25.

BERLIN, Jan. 1.—Three thousand members of the newly organized Christian People's party, which succeeds the former Centrists, marched to the Ministry of Religion and Education in Unter-den-Linden at noon to-day and made a vehement protest against the administration of Adolf Hoffmann, independent Socialist, who has become unpopular in church circles because of his attempted legislation opposing religious liberty in parochial schools. The demonstration was under the leadership of Secretary Pfeiffer, of the Christian People's party, who is a candidate for the national assembly.

Wants Free Democracy

Pfeiffer demanded the overthrow of the socialist republic and the establishment of a free democracy. There were shouts of "Put out Hoffmann, who cannot read or write German," but the Minister of Arts, Science and Religion was not to be seen. The crowd then moved to the Chancellors' Palace, where it called for Premier Ebert, but no Cabinet Ministers were visible.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Gustave Neske, one of the new members of the Ebert government in Germany, is quoted in an interview printed in the "Express" as saying that the demobilization of the German army is proceeding much more rapidly than was at first believed possible.

1,000,000 Men Demobilized

So far, it is stated, about one million soldiers have been demobilized. German troops in barracks, the minister added, are being moved to points where it was deemed necessary to combat Bolshevism, but he did not believe there was any real danger from the Bolshevist movement.

CORLENZ, Jan. 1.—(By The Associated Press.)—Voluntary enlistments in the German army are being called for in the district of the Eighteenth German Army Corps, near Frankfurt, in order that men of the older classes may be mustered out and sent home. According to the "Frankfurt Gazette," by order of the War Minister the commander of the district of the Eighteenth Corps has established enlistment offices in seventeen towns, including Giessen, Nidda, Steina, Bobsenheim, Bensheim, Ehrbach, Orb and Wehlburg.

## Terrorist Rule by German Socialists

In Power Feared By Joseph Saxe

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BERLIN, Dec. 29 (delayed).—Feeling against the Majority Socialists is running very high. The ranks of the extremists are being swelled daily in consequence of recent events. It is difficult to account for so highland and aggressive a policy on the part of the Socialists as the policy of terror maintained by the Majority Socialists.

The explanation must be sought nearer home. The German labor movement always has been well known for its discipline, but what is not so well known is that its discipline often has been accompanied by a certain brutality, peculiar to the militarized German people, which the working class of no other nation would tolerate from their leaders.

What we have witnessed this week is largely the application, with tragic results, of this peculiar German high-mindedness, in the enforcement of labor discipline.

Ebert and Wels forgot that the empire cannot be governed by the methods employed by trade union leaders against recalcitrant members. Undoubtedly it is very troublesome to the government to be liable to have its plans upset by malcontents inclined to reinforce their arguments by a display of armed force. But then the government of a revolutionary people and country is to some extent a process of dissolution.

Grave decisions are pending in the

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42ND STREET AT MADISON AVENUE

## France Cables Sympathy To U. S. War Mourners

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The State Department to-day made public the following message received under date of January 1 from the French government:

"The French government wishes to express its profound sympathy and gratitude to the American families whose sons have met a glorious death on French soil during the war. It wishes to share in their mourning."

"The graves of the young soldiers of America are as sacred in its eyes as are those of their French comrades, and it will take the necessary measures to provide that they shall be respected and tended with a reverent and patriotic care."

Cabinet regarding the manner of carrying out decisions of the National Soviet Congress. The question of military command, the status of officers, the removal of shoulder straps, the question of nationalization, especially that of the mines, and the question of completion of demobilization are among those seriously troubling the government. The Independents accuse the government of intentional procrastination on the first and second questions, notwithstanding the clear mandates of the Soviet Congress on demobilization.

The Moderates want to retain the classes of 1897 and 1898 under arms and also older men doing guard service. The Independents insist on complete demobilization, stating that the attitude of the Moderates is inexplicable, except on the assumption that they are in collusion with representatives of the old regime. Even men of formations already demobilized are free to remain voluntarily with their units as a precaution against mass unemployment. I understand that very many soldiers have profited by this option. Numerous men already discharged returned to their barracks after a few days.

The government, now composed entirely of Majority Socialists, however, is paying scant attention to the attacks of the Independents, and having received the confidence and support of the National Executive Committee of Soviets, is prepared to use all means that may be necessary against any attempts on the part of the opposition to seize power by force. The Majority Socialists have turned the tables on the Independents in the controversy over last week's shooting, and propose now to use the methods of the extremists in staging large demonstrations.

## Tobacco at Premium

WITH AMERICAN FORCES ON OMAHA, Dec. 12 (Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—A tobacco famine has become so pronounced in the territory along the Rhine and Moselle rivers, where Russo-Alleed troops are operating, in Northern Russia, that the peasants are willing to exchange almost anything they have for small quantities of tobacco or cigarettes.

The correspondents of a local newspaper, who went ashore from a flat-bottomed boat, told of a steamer with a packet of ten very bad cigarettes and secured in exchange twelve eggs, a half bushel of potatoes and 100 pounds of clothes. The Russian peasant has been an inveterate smoker for nearly a century. During the last six months the tobacco growing in the south has been cut off from the north by battle lines and the supply was soon exhausted.

The peasants have been smoking tea leaves, tree leaves and dried moss. Each hour that comes on the river and stops at a village is beset by peasants asking for cigarettes or "one moshka tabak," meaning a little tobacco.

Money is virtually worthless in transactions with the peasants, ten cigarettes going much further than 100 rubles in the purchase of produce.

## Aid of Clergymen Sought

T. R. Fitzgerald and J. Kusch, composing the weekly rest day committee of the United Protective Association, an organization representing the 7,000 workers of the Street Cleaning Department, sent out a circular yesterday to the clergymen of the city, urging them to support the demand of the men for a weekly day of rest.

A resolution adopted by the Board of Aldermen on November 25 provided for an increase of pay to time and a half for all men required to work on Sundays. Mr. Fitzgerald said yesterday that this was a measure designed to discourage the practice of having the men work seven days a week. Sweepers now receive, he said, 37½ cents an hour for working week and 35 cents an hour on Sunday. Drivers get \$3.50 a week and \$2.90 on Sunday. Section station keepers work 365 days a year and are paid for only 313.

The resolution is now pending before the Board of Estimates, and a communication dispatched to all the clergymen requests them to write to the Mayor asking for an immediate hearing.

## Finds Stolen Crucifix

Detective James H. Fitzgerald discovered a three-foot crucifix of gold, ivory and bronze yesterday in a Sixth Avenue second hand shop which had been stolen the day after Christmas from the Episcopal church of St. Mary's of the Sea, on West Forty-sixth Street. It was valued at more than \$1,000 and was bought by the second hand dealer for \$2.

## New Year Roar of U. S. Guns Rouses Coblenz Germans

Artillery and Pistol Fire Resound in Celebration of Arrival of 1919: Rhine and Moselle Are Flooded

CORLENZ, Jan. 2 (By The Associated Press).—The German civilians in the area occupied by the American Third Army heard for the first time with the arrival of the new year the roar of American artillery in salute, while in Coblenz, Treves and various villages in the occupied district the crack of American pistols resounded in celebration of the new year's advent.

In different parts of the occupied area, including the section east of the Rhine, the American artillerymen fired six-inch howitzers and other guns as the hands of the clock came together at the midnight hour. The charges were black as were those fired by the soldiers from their service pistols in round after round in the various towns as the new year came in.

Pay Respects to Dickman  
In Coblenz this morning, the officers of the Third Army, about 800 of them, called upon Major General Dickman at headquarters to pay their respects to their commander.

Major General Robert L. Bullard, commander of the Second Army, arrived in Coblenz to-day. There have been several rumors that the Second Army soon would take over the occupied area, relieving the Third Army; but the Rhine and Moselle rivers to-day flooded the bridgehead here would be placed in the rear area and be among the first to start for home.

Rise of three feet in the waters of the Rhine and Moselle rivers to-day flooded the lower streets of Coblenz and villages along both rivers.

## Steamer Service Arranged

The cellars of two hotels in Coblenz, occupied by officers of the American Third Army, were flooded. The high water in the Moselle is causing considerable trouble.

## Allies Will Permit German Trading With Occupied Regions

LONDON, Jan. 2.—German appeals against suspension by the Allies of intercourse between the part of German territory occupied by the Allied armies and the rest of Germany have been taken into consideration at the headquarters of Marshal Foch at Luxembourg. A German delegation has been received at the marshal's headquarters and has been informed that so far as military exigencies permit the appeals have been granted.

According to an arrangement reached with the German government the Germans had themselves to furnish to the occupied zone during the armistice as much fuel as was sent there in the third quarter of 1918 and also such machinery and spare parts as may be required by industries in the occupied region. In return, the Allies will appoint a commissioner to arrange for certain quantities of raw materials to be sent across the Rhine into Germany.

This will prevent unemployment which otherwise might have resulted. To take one example—in the iron-smelting district of Essen and Dortmund, whose supply of iron ore from the Lorraine and Saar region had been suspended since the armistice. In addition, the British military governor at Cologne announces that beginning January 1 importations of foodstuffs, raw material and spare parts authorized manufactured articles from unoccupied Germany will be permitted into the territory occupied by the British troops.

## U. S. Men Get Italian Medals

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Jan. 1 (By The Associated Press).—The silver medal for valor has been awarded to John Cloud, of St. Louis, and Bayard Wharton, of Philadelphia, volunteers in the American ambulance army service. The award was made for the act of the ambulance men in saving at the risk of their lives a British aviator whose machine had fallen into a swiftly flowing river.

PARIS, Jan. 1.—Lettres from home were never more needed by American soldiers and sailors than at present, according to a statement issued to-day by the headquarters of the Y. M. C. A. here. It is urged that relatives of men in the service continue writing to them until their return has been definitely arranged. This statement was made after it had been learned that many soldiers and sailors had received letters saying that now that the war is over and the men are soon to return to America there is no further need to keep on writing.

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## Bust of Ex-Kaiser Rests In Mud of German Creek

Mayen Villagers Once Proud of Emperor, but That Was Before Doughboys Came

AMERICAN ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Jan. 1 (By The Associated Press).—In Mayen, west of Coblenz, where the American Third Army had its headquarters before moving to Coblenz, a life-sized bronze bust of former Emperor William for years stood in a little park near the center of the town. During the war, when German newspapers reported victories the bust was decorated with wreaths and the pedestal was swathed with the German flag. Always during the four years of the war the little park was carefully tended.

With the abdication of the Emperor the civilians of Mayen rather lost interest in the village park and the Emperor's bust—and then the Americans came. But the Americans paid little attention to the statue and the bust looked down upon thousands of infantrymen as they passed through Mayen on the way to the Rhine. For three weeks, with Americans billeted in nearly every house in Mayen, the bust occupied its usual place.

With the coming of New Year's morning the bust and pedestal had disappeared. Down the road leading to the creek was a trail in the mud as if something had been dragged along at the end of a rope.

## French Censor Press Cables Messages Sent by Certain Correspondents Violate Rules

PARIS, Jan. 2. Contrary to reports hitherto published, it is now understood among newspaper men here that the French authorities do not feel themselves called upon to abrogate their right to censor American press messages.

The French censors are reported to be of the opinion that American cables forwarded by some of the correspondents here offend against the rules which the French consider themselves entitled to enforce.

Newspaper men complain of not being able to send what they like, and though it is believed that all messages are now scrutinized by French censors, it is surmised that some kind of joint action may be taken to produce a more satisfactory arrangement.

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